



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures

At its meeting held March 9, 2004, the Board took the following action:

38-C

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“The County Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures reports that private companies are short-changing customers who turn in bottles and cans under the State’s recycling program. While inadvertent mistakes may occur due to malfunctions on scales or simple human error, it would appear that certain recyclers are habitual offenders who continually cheat the public and pocket the difference.

“The recycling of used beverage containers is critical to reducing the waste stream into landfills throughout the State of California. Landfill space is at a premium, and very few new landfills are being constructed. A combination of waste diversion measures, such as curbside recycling, composting of green materials, and the refunds on beverage containers, has made a substantial contribution to reducing the waste stream.

“The County regulates weights and measures in all cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles. It is essential that the public have confidence in this system. When County residents learn that they may be receiving 20-30% less than they should for recycled materials, it undermines governmental efforts to encourage recycling. While the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures should be commended for discovering these errors, it is important that the County implement measures necessary to punish repeat violators and insure the integrity of the system. The District Attorney should prosecute those recyclers who are not taking the necessary corrective measures.”

(Continued on Page 2)

38-C (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Directed the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to:
 - a. Continue his investigation of recyclers who are short-changing customers who turn in bottles and cans under the State's recycling program, and identify steps that will be taken to correct violations, particularly offenses by habitual offenders; and
 - b. Report back to the Board within 60 days; and
2. Requested the District Attorney to:
 - a. Review the status of referrals by the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures with respect to prosecution of recyclers that repeatedly fail to comply with County requirements; and
 - b. Report back to the Board within 60 days.

5030904-38-C

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Letter sent to:

District Attorney